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SPEECH INSERT

In Central America, we are engaged in an effort to assist the people in establishing democracy and free enterprise -- and it is working. The signs of success are expressed in the growing strength of democracy in El Salvador; in the cohesion of the people and the Army and their successful campaign against the rebels. It is expressed in the elections of the past four years in Costa Rica, in Honduras and Guatemala. And yes it is expressed in the emergent "peace offensive being publicized in Nicaragua. Something must be working when changes like this -- if indeed they are changes, occur. How are we to interpret this current series of statements?

On the face of it, offering to remove about 1% of the Cuban presence or to pause in their imports of arms which they acknowledge could not be absorbed at this time, do not appear to represent significant moves. But it is relevant to ask why they bother.

Is it because picaraguan young men are leaving the country and refusing to serve in the army out of revulsion at their governments policies? Is it because of the outrage being expressed by the Church in Nicaragua; is it because of the collapse of their economy under the weight of Sandinista militarism and corruption? Is it because their people see what is going in neighboring countries and want it for themselves.

Perhaps it is because of all these reasons. Perhaps it is because the Scoop Jackson plan is working. Perhaps it is because the Preedom Fighters struggle is appealing to the people of Nicaragua.

Whatever the cause we would surely welcome genuine
Nicaraguan interest in peace. But here are actions which they
can commit themselves to which would show their good faith
interest in peace. These actions involve no more than they
committed themselves to 5 years ago; genuine free elections in
which all can participate; restoring their military to a level
commensurate with that of their neighbors; cutting their ties to
the Soviet and Cuban military pipeline and ending the subversion
of their neighbors. This is what the Contadora process is all
about.

We and the other parties to Contadora await these good faith efforts. And when they materialize at the table we and our friends will be there.

WASHFAX RECEIPT

THE WHITE HOUSE

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